O 031455Z JUN 09 FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0912 INFO USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RIYADH 000741

IO FOR WARLICK, NEA FOR HUDSON, HARRIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2019

TAGS: KNNP AORC PREL

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL ELECTION

REF: STATE 46302

Classified By: Political Counselor Lisa Carle

(S) SAG PREFERS JAPANESE CANDIDATE: In a pull-aside on the margins of POTUS visit, Saudi FM Saud Al-Faisal told Ambassador Erdman that the Saudis would support the Japanese candidate, Ambassador Yukiya Amano, to become the next IAEA Director General. Prince Saud noted that the SAG felt it "was important to have someone in that position who understood proliferation, non-proliferation, and was from a country with nuclear energy."

ERDMAN